

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ASMARA 00542 181445Z

45

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 AID-05 PC-01 OMB-01 /081 W

----- 083052

R 181301Z JUN 75

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3398

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

COMNAVTELCOM

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

COMIDEASTFOR

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0542

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, ET

SUBJ: ERITREA - THE INSURGENCY

1. DURING SEPARATE MEETING JUNE 16, ON THE OCCASION OF A VISIT TO ASMARA BY BG D. YOW, CHMAAG, ADDIS, WITH BOTH BG GETACHEW NADEW, MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR OF ERITREA, AND BG WORKU MAKONNEN, CO 2ND DIV, AND IN OPERATIONAL CHARGE OF ALL TROOPS IN ERITREA (EXCEPT ASSAB), THE CURRENT STATE OF THE ERITREAN INSURGENCY WAS DISCUSSED.

2. BOTH STATED THAT THE ARMY HAS THE UPPER HAND, WORKU IN SOMEWHAT MORE GUARDED TERMS THAN GETACHEW. ACCORDING TO THEIR ANALYSIS, THE INSURGENTS IOIBPRVTV# UUS#DESTRUCTION OF VILLAGES THAT HAD HARBORED

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ASMARA 00542 181445Z

THEM. THE ARMY'S AGGRESSIVE OPERATIONS, UNDER IMPROVED COMMAND

AND CONTROL ARRANGEMENTS, HAVE DEPRIVED THE INSURGENTS OF SANCTUARIES, DESTROYED SOURCES OF FOOD, ERODED THEIR SUPPORT AMONG THE CIVILIAN POPULATION WHICH HAS SUFFERED AS A RESULT OF THEIR ACTIONS, AND INFLICTED CASUALTIES. AS A RESULT OF ALL OF THESE FACTORS THE INSURGENT FORCES ARE DISPERSED IN SMALL BANDS AND ARE UNABLE TO CONCENTRATE. GETACHEW ASSERTED THAT THE ARMY WILL BRING ABOUT A MILITARY SOLUTION. WORKU GIVES IT A 50-50 CHANCE. ACCORDING TO WORKU, THE ELF, BECAUSE OF ITS RECENT CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP, HAS BEEN QUIESCENT AND LIMITED ITSELF TO OCCASIONAL MINING OF ROADS. THE PLF HAS BEEN MUCH MORE ACTIVE AND HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR NUMEROUS AMBUSHES HOWEVER, ALL ROADS REMAIN UNDER ARMY CONTROL AND ARE OPEN, INCLUDING THOSE TO KEREN, AKSUM AND MAKELE. WORKU ALSO SAID THAT INSURGENT STRENGTH IS DOWN AS MANY ERITREAN RECRUITS FROM ADDIS AND ASMARA WHO HAD GONE OVER TO THE INSURGENTS EARLIER HAVE NOW RETURNED HOME.

3. GETACHEW, AT ONE POINT, VIRTUALLY ACCUSED THE LATE LTG AMAN ANDOM OF HAVING FAVORED THE INSURGENTS BY FAILING TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS NECESSARY TO PREVENT AN INSURGENT TAKEOVER OF ASMARA., WHICH HE, GETACHEW, DID AFTER HE TOOK CHARGE.

4. RUMORED RAINY SEASON OFFENSIVE BY INSURGENTS DISCOUNTED BY GETACHEW AND WORKU BOTH BECAUSE OF POOR INSURGENT SUPPLY SITUATION AND BECAUSE OF THE DISPERSAL OF INSURGENT FORCES. WORKU, IN PARTICULAR, NOTED ALSO THAT WEATHER IN ASMARA DURING WINTER (RAINY SEASON) NOT BAD ENOUGH TO SERIOUSLY IMPEDE MILITARY ACTION. USE OF AIR FORCE WOULD BE AFFECTED TO SOME EXTENT BUT NOT CRITICALLY AND GROUND OPERATIONS, WHICH DO NOT INVOLVE USE OF VEHICLES VERY FAR OFF ROADS, WOULD SCARCELY BE AFFECTED AT ALL. INCIDENTALLY, WORKU STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT THE ROAD BETWEEN ADDIS AND ASMARA VIA GONDER AND AKSUM IS NOT AFFECTED BY THE RAINY SEASON AND WILL REMAIN OPEN.

5. WORKU NOTED THAT WHILE INSURGENTS REASONABLY WELL SUPPLIED WITH WEAPONS, HE HAS TAKEN STEPS TO MAKE RESUPPLY MORE DIFFICULT. THESE INCLUDE COMBINED OPERATIONS IN COOPERATION WITH NAVY, AGAINST SUPPLY RECEIPT POINTS ALONG RED SEA COAST. HE HAS SOME 300 TROOPS (PARATROOPERS, 2ND DIV SOLDIERS, AND COMMANDO POLICE) STATIONED IN MASSAWA FOR THESE OPERATIONS.  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ASMARA 00542 181445Z

6. IN EFFORT ENSURE ADEQUATE FOOD SUPPLIES TO ASMARA, ARMY LAST WEEK ESCORTED TWO HUNDRED TRUCK LOADS OF SORGHUM TO ASMARA WHICH NOW BEING DISTRIBUTED THROUGH NORMAL COMMERCIAL CHANNELS BUT BEING RATIONED TO PREVENT HOARDING AND TO KEEP IT OUT OF HANDS OF INSURGENTS. IT IS PRESENTLY STORED UNDER TERRITORIAL ARMY GUARD AT HIGH SCHOOL, WHICH HAS BEEN TERRITORIAL HDQTRS.

7. WITH REFERENCE TO SCHOOLS, GETACHEW SAID HE HAS ISSUED ORDERS THAT ALL STUDENTS SHOULD REGISTER NOW FOR NEW SCHOOL TERM BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER. HE SAID ALL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS WILL BE OPENED.

8. ON THE TERRITORIAL ARMY, WORKU SAID IT IS TO BE EVENTUALLY PHASED OUT. QUALIFIED TERRITORIAL TROOPS WILL BE ABSORBED AS REPLACEMENTS BY ARMY AND COMMANDO POLICE UNITS AND AFTER COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE IS INTRODUCED, TERRITORIAL ARMY WILL CEASE TO EXIST.  
SHERRY

NOTE BY OC/T: PARA 2 (#) AS RECEIVED.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PARAMILITARY FORCES, ERITREA, POLITICAL SITUATION, LIBERATION FRONTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 JUN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** RowellE0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975ASMARA00542  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750212-0454  
**From:** ASMARA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750636/aaaabgrw.tel  
**Line Count:** 128  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** RowellE0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ERITREA - THE INSURGENCY  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, ET, ELF, PLF, (WORKU MAKONNEN), (GETACHEW)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006